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Rap's Telephone 'Tapped' By La. Officials, Court Told

The telephone of black power militant H. Rap Brown was "tapped" by Louisiana authorities, the Justice Department has informed a New Orleans federal court.

The disclosure came today in a memorandum filed with the court, which is considering Brown's appeal on a conviction of violating the Federal Firearms Act by transporting a carbine from New York to New Orleans while under indictment.

BROWN IS appealing a five-year maximum sentence imposed following his conviction on one of two counts. On the first count, bringing the same carbine from New York to New Orleans, Brown was found not guilty.

A hearing was to have been held tomorrow before the sentencing judge, Lansing L. Mitchell, to determine if Brown's conviction was a result of wiretapping. However, the case has been continued because a Brown attorney, William M. Kunstler Jr., had to be in Chicago.

Kunstler is engaged in the trial of eight persons charged with conspiracy in connection with disturbances at the Democratic national convention last year.

EARLIER THIS year, the Justice Department's lawyers told the court that four separate taps—three apparently installed by FBI agents and regarded as legal by the government — were installed at various times on Brown's phone.

The government sent a log of the conversation monitored by Louisiana authorities to attorneys for Brown, one-time chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The federally monitored conversations were not released.

The department said electronic surveillance by Louisiana "was not conducted at the request of the federal government."

Louisiana Attorney Gen. Jack Gremillion said today that he didn't request any electronic surveillance of Brown's conversations.

"THE MAN didn't mean that much to me," he said.

Gremillion said it was not done at the request of his office and that he knows nothing about it.

"If it was done by anybody else, it was not authorized by me. But of course if some other authorities—if anybody else did it—it wasn't at my suggestion nor was I aware of it."